

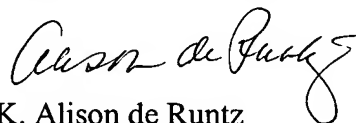
For Invention I elected with traverse, above, the Examiner has further required an election of one species from species he identifies as Species 1A: Claims 1-7, drawn to an apparatus for processing a semiconductor wafer, and Species 1B: 8-21, drawn to a cluster tool. Species 1B is hereby elected with traverse on the grounds that a search and examination regarding all alleged species can be made without serious burden. The Examiner has indicated the claims readable on Species 1B as being Claims 8-21, drawn to a cluster tool, and Applicants concur.

In view of the foregoing election of invention and election of species, both with traverse, reconsideration and an examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:

EV 259 164 146 US

Respectfully submitted,



K. Alison de Runtz  
Attorney of Record  
Reg. No. 37,119

LAW OFFICES OF SKJERVEN MORRILL LLP  
Three Embarcadero Ctr., 28th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111

LAW OFFICES OF  
SKJERVEN MORRILL LLP

San Jose, CA  
San Francisco, CA